

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 030955Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3046

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MR, UN , OAU, UR, MO
SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES MAURITANIA, UN, OAU AND SOVIET
RELATIONS

1. MFA SECGEN ABDELHAKIM IRAQUI HAD DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR
ON MAY 27. FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE COVERED:

2. MAURITANIA: IRAQUI REFUSED TO CONFIRM WHETHER ANY FORMAL
MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT EXISTED BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.
HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANCE OF A STATEMENT BY FONMIN
LARAKI AT THE END OF HIS LAST NOUAKCHOTT VISIT (RABAT 2632),
IN WHICH LARAKI SAID THAT ANY ATTACK ON MAURITANIA WOULD BE
CONSIDERED AS AN ATTACK ON MOROCCO AND THAT THIS VERY IMPORTANT
STATEMENT WAS "OBVIOUSLY BASED ON SOMETHING."

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE MOROCCANS ARE CONTINUING TO
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RESIST ANY FORMAL "MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT," ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THAT
CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ARE BRINGING THEIR
COOPERATION TO A MUCH MORE REFINED LEVEL.

4. UNGA. BETWEEN NOW AND THE UNGA, IRAQUI SAID, THERE WAS
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING THAT SECGEN WALDHEIM COULD DO TO MEDIATE
BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. ACCORDING TO HIS WRIT AS CONTAINED

IN LAST YEAR'S UNGA RESOLUTION, THE UN IS NOT SEIZED WITH THE SAHARA PROBLEM; RATHER, THIS IS THE OAU'S RESPONSIBILITY. WALDHEIM'S MEETING WITH THE MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA ON MAY 20 AS AN INFORMATION-SEEKING ENDEAVOR FOR POSSIBLE LATER DEVELOPMENT. IN THE MEANTIME, WALDHEIM WOULD NOT BE WELCOME IN MOROCCO BECAUSE HE HAD NO MANDATE AT THIS TIME.

5. LIBREVILLE SUMMIT. IRAQUI EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MOROCCO HAD NOTHING TO FEAR ON THE DIPLOMATIC TRACK. THE ALGERIANS WERE FLOUNDERING ABOUT TRYING TO RESURRECT THE SAHARA ISSUE. UNLESS THEY CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDE NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD. IN BENIN'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LIBREVILLE SUMMIT, MOROCCO SCENTED AN ALGERIAN ATTEMPT TO SCUTTLE THAT MEETING. HE WAS SURE THAT BOUMEDIENE WOULD NOT SHOW AND SPECULATED THAT ALGERIA ITSELF MIGHT BOYCOTT THE MEETING.

6. AS FOR MOROCCO'S PRESENCE, IRAQUI, PERHAPS SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUSLY, ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW MOROCCO COULD POSSIBLY ATTEND IN VIEW OF SUSPENSION OF ITS ACTIVITIES. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE KING WOULD GO. SOME WAY FIRST HAD TO BE FOUND FOR MOROCCO TO RESUME ITS PARTICIPATION. MAYBE, HE SPECULATED, SOME KIND OF INVITATION COULD BE ISSUED TO HASSAN WHICH WOULD SURMOUNT THE PROBLEM.

7. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO VIEW KING HASSAN'S ATTENDANCE AT LIBREVILLE A POSSIBILITY (RABAT 2881), ALTHOUGH THE WAY IN WHICH THE AGENDA SHAPES UP THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING MAY WELL GOVERN HASSAN'S FINAL DECISION. WE SENSE, HOWEVER, SOME BACKING OFF IN GOM OPTIMISM THAT THE KING WILL ATTEND, WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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MAY REFLECT UNCERTAINTY ON HOW THE SAHARA ISSUE IS GOING IN AFRICAN CIRCLES.

8. SOVIET RELATIONS: IRAQUI CONFIRMED THAT MOROCCAN PHOSPHATE CHIEF KARIM LAMRANI HAD RECENTLY VISITED MOSCOW. IRAQUI TERMED THE VISIT A SUCCESS; OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS HAD BEEN SETTLED AND THERE WOULD BE AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT ON MESKALA.

COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY CROSS CHECK THIS INFORMATION WITH LAMRANI OR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM, PLAN SEC GEN HAS TOLD US THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT PROBLEMS OF MARKET CONTROL AND PAYMENTS LOOK INTRACTIBLE. SOVIETS WANT TO PAY FOR PHOSPHATES WITH MACHINERY MOROCCO PREFERS TO BUY IN WEST AND TO REMAIN FREE TO REEXPORT PHOSPHATIC CHEMICALS TO EASTERN EUROPE. FOR PRESENT WE REMAIN AGNOSTIC ON OUTCOME OF VISIT WHILE RECOGNIZING POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS HAVE CLEARLY REACTIVATED ISSUE. END COMMENT. WITH REGARD TO SHVEDOV VISIT HERE (RABAT 2793), IRAQUI MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT THE MOROCCANS HAD COME AWAY FROM THEIR MEETINGS WITH THE SOVIETS CONVINCED

THAT THE LATTER WERE DETERMINED TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE
HORN OF AFRICA USING THEIR NEW LEVERAGE IN ETHIOPIA. THE
SITUATION IN SOMALIA, HOWEVER, WAS LOOKING BETTER AND MOROCCO
HOPED THAT TREND WOULD CONTINUE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE
US WOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITIES EMERGING IN SOMALIA SERIOUSLY.

9. SAUDI CROWN PRINCE COMING. IRAQUI CONFIDED THAT CROWN
PRINCE FAHD WOULD BE COMING HERE ON A PRIVATE VISIT TO FES FOR
ABOUT TEN DAYS FOLLOWING THE CIEC CONFERENCE IN PARIS. FOREIGN
MINISTER LARAKI SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT FAHD WOULD
ARRIVE IN FES ON FRIDAY, JUNE 3 FOR 10-15 DAYS.
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